

ABRSM EXAM SYSTEM TECHNIQUE REQUIREMENTS

Piano Grade 1

(All speeds relate to the rhythmic grouping of ♩ except Grade 1 broken chords)

SCALES AND BROKEN CHORDS

Scales (♩ = 60)

C, G, D, F majors

hands separately

2 octaves

A, D minors

(L.H. may, at candidate's choice, be

(natural *or* harmonic *or* melodic, at
candidate's choice)

played descending and ascending)

Contrary-motion scale (♩ = 60)

C major

hands beginning on the key-note (unison) 1 octave

Broken chords (♩. = 46)

C, G, F majors

hands separately, as pattern below

A, D minors



ABRSM EXAM SYSTEM TECHNIQUE REQUIREMENTS

Piano Grade 2

(All speeds relate to the rhythmic grouping of ♩)

SCALES, ARPEGGIOS AND BROKEN CHORDS

Scales (similar motion ♩ = 66)

G, D, A, F majors	hands together <i>and</i> separately	2 octaves
E, D, G minors		
(natural <i>or</i> harmonic <i>or</i> melodic, at candidate's choice)		

Contrary-motion scales (♩ = 66)

C, E majors	hands beginning on the key-note (unison)	2 octaves
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Chromatic scales (♩ = 66)

beginning on D	hands separately	1 octave
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Arpeggios (♩ = 63)

G, D, A majors	hands separately	2 octaves
D, G minors		

Broken chords (♩ = 63)

F major	hands separately, as pattern below	
E minor		



ABRSM EXAM SYSTEM TECHNIQUE REQUIREMENTS

Piano Grade 3

(All speeds relate to the rhythmic grouping of ♩)

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS

Scales (similar motion ♩ = 80)

A, E, B, B♭, E♭ majors	hands together <i>and</i> separately	2 octaves
B, G, C minors		
(harmonic <i>or</i> melodic, at candidate's choice)		

Contrary-motion scales (♩ = 80)

A major	hands beginning on the key-note	2 octaves
A <i>harmonic</i> minor	(unison)	

Chromatic scales (♩ = 80)

beginning on A♭ and on C	hands separately	2 octaves
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Arpeggios (♩ = 69)

A major	hands together <i>only</i>	2 octaves
G minor		
E, B, B♭, E♭ majors	hands separate <i>only</i>	2 octaves
B, C minors		

ABRSM EXAM SYSTEM TECHNIQUE REQUIREMENTS

Piano Grade 4

(All speeds relate to the rhythmic grouping of )

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS

Scales (similar motion = 52)

B, B $\flat$, E $\flat$, A $\flat$, D $\flat$ majors	hands together <i>and</i> separately	2 octaves
C $\sharp$, G $\sharp$, C, F minors		
(harmonic <i>or</i> melodic, at candidate's choice)		

Contrary-motion scales (= 52)

F, E $\flat$ majors	hands beginning on the key-note	2 octaves
D, C <i>harmonic</i> minor	(unison)	

Chromatic scales (= 52)

beginning on any black key named by the examiner	hands together <i>and</i> separately	2 octaves
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Arpeggios (= 76)

B, B $\flat$, E $\flat$, A $\flat$, D $\flat$ majors	hands together <i>and</i> separately	2 octaves
C $\sharp$, G $\sharp$, C, F minors		

ABRSM EXAM SYSTEM TECHNIQUE REQUIREMENTS

Piano Grade 5

(All speeds relate to the rhythmic grouping of ♩)

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS

Scales (similar motion ♩ = 63)

all keys, major and minor
(harmonic *or* melodic, at
candidate's choice)

hands together *and* separately

3 octaves

Contrary-motion scales (♩ = 63)

Group I: F, D $\flat$ /C $\sharp$ majors and *harmonic* minors
or Group II: F $\sharp$, B $\flat$ majors and *harmonic* minors

hands beginning on the key-note
(unison)

2 octaves

Chromatic scales (♩ = 63)

beginning on any note named by
the examiner

hands together *and* separately

3 octaves

Chromatic contrary-motion scales (♩ = 63)

beginning on D (unison) and on A $\flat$ (unison)

2 octaves

Arpeggios (♩ = 88)

all keys, major *and* minor

hands together *and* separately

3 octaves

ABRSM EXAM SYSTEM TECHNIQUE REQUIREMENTS

Piano Grade 6

PREREQUISITE FOR ENTRY: ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or any solo Jazz subject. For alternatives, see www.abrsm.org/prerequisite.

(All speeds relate to the rhythmic grouping of ♩)

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS

Scales (similar motion ♩ = 76)

all keys, major and minor

legato, hands together *and* separately

4 octaves

(minors *both* harmonic and melodic)

Staccato Scales* (♩ = 76)

Group I: A, E♭ majors

hands separately

4 octaves

or Group II: E, B♭ majors

Contrary-motion scales* (♩ = 76)

Group I: A, E♭ majors and *harmonic* minors

legato, hands beginning on the key-note

2 octaves

or Group II: E, B♭ majors and *harmonic* minors

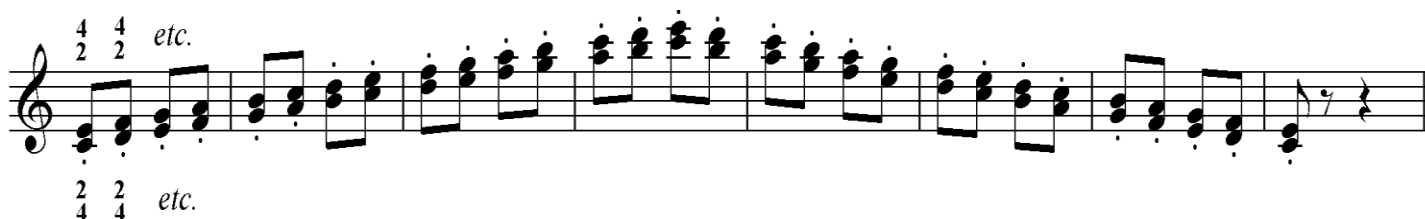
(unison)

Staccato scale in thirds (♩ = 52)

C Major

hands separately

2 octaves



Chromatic scales (♩ = 76)

beginning on any note named by
the examiner

legato, hands together *and* separately

4 octaves

Chromatic contrary-motion scale (♩ = 76)

beginning on A♯ (L.H.) and C♯ (R.H.), a minor
third apart

legato

2 octaves

Arpeggios (♩ = 50)

all keys, major and minor

legato, hands together *and* separately

4 octaves

Diminished sevenths (♩ = 50)

beginning on B and C[#]

legato, hands together *and* separately

4 octaves

* The candidate chooses *one* of the groups; use same group for staccato scales and contrary-motion scales

Piano Grade 7

(All speeds relate to the rhythmic grouping of ♪)

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS

Group 1: C, D, E, F#, Bb, Ab/G# majors & minors
or Group 2: G, A, B, F, Eb, Db/C# majors & minors
(minors *both* harmonic and melodic)

legato *or* staccato as directed by
the examiner, hands together
and separately

4 octaves

Group 1: keys as above
or Group 2: (majors & harmonic minors *only*)

legato *or* staccato, as directed by
the examiner, hands together

4 octaves

Group 1: keys as above
or Group 2: (majors & harmonic minors *only*)

legato *or* staccato, as directed by
the examiner, hands beginning on
the keynote (unison)

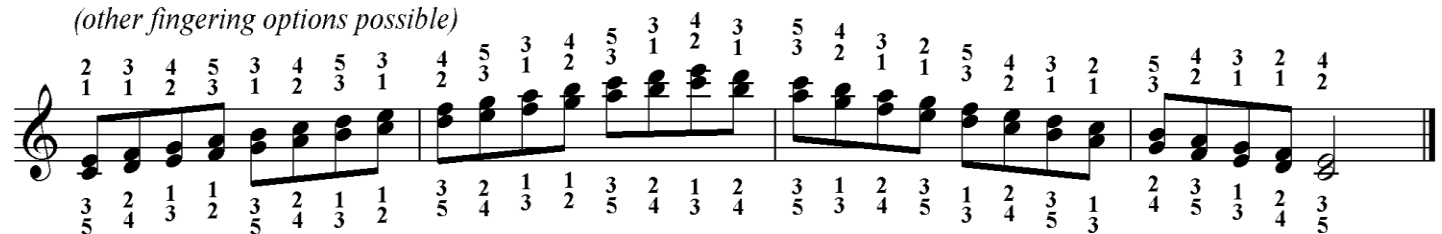
2 octaves

C Major

hands separately

2 octaves

(other fingering options possible)



C Major

hands separately

2 octaves



Chromatic scales (♩ = 80)

beginning on any note named by
the examiner

legato *or* staccato, as directed by
the examiner, hands together *and*
separately

4 octaves

Chromatic contrary-motion scale (♩ = 80)

beginning on C (unison) and on F[♯] (unison)

legato *or* staccato, as directed by
the examiner

2 octaves

Arpeggios (♩ = 56)

Group 1: keys as above
or Group 2: keys as above

legato, hands together *and* separately
in root position *and* first inversion

4 octaves

Dominant sevenths (♩ = 56)

Group 1: in the keys of C, D, E, F[♯], B[♭], A[♭]
or Group 2: in the keys of G, A, B, F, E[♭], D[♭]

legato, hands together *and* separately

4 octaves

Diminished sevenths (♩ = 56)

beginning on A and on C[♯]

legato, hands together *and* separately

4 octaves

ABRSM EXAM SYSTEM TECHNIQUE REQUIREMENTS

Piano Grade 8

PREREQUISITE FOR ENTRY: ABRSM Grade 5 (or above) in Music Theory, Practical Musicianship or any solo Jazz subject. For alternatives, see www.abrsm.org/prerequisite.

(All speeds relate to the rhythmic grouping of ♩)

SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS

Scales (similar motion ♩ = 88)

C, D, B, F#, F, Eb, Ab/G#, Db/C# majors and minors
(minors *both* harmonic and melodic)

legato *or* staccato as directed by
the examiner, hands together
and separately

4 octaves

Scales a third apart (♩ = 63)

keys as above (major & harmonic minors *only*)

legato *or* staccato, as directed by
the examiner, hands together

4 octaves

Scales a sixth apart (♩ = 63)

keys as above (major & harmonic minors *only*)

legato *or* staccato, as directed by
the examiner, hands together

4 octaves

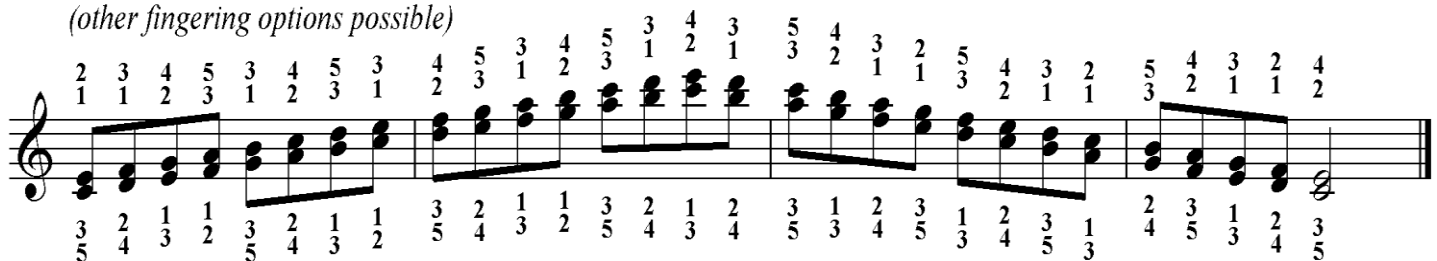
Legato scales in thirds (♩ = 52)

C and Bb majors

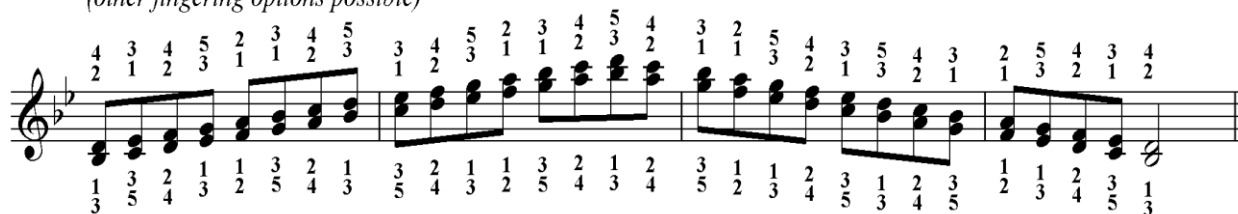
hands separately

2 octaves

(other fingering options possible)



(other fingering options possible)



Chromatic scales a minor third apart ($\text{♩} = 76$)

beginning on any notes named by
the examiner

legato *or* staccato, as directed by
the examiner, hands together

4 octaves

Chromatic scale in minor thirds ($\text{♩} = 52$)

beginning on A $\sharp$ /C $\sharp$

legato, hands separately

2 octaves

(other fingering options possible)

Whole-tone scale ($\text{♩} = 88$)

beginning on E

legato, hands together *and* separately

2 octaves

Arpeggios ($\text{♩} = 66$)

keys for scales (similar motion) above

legato, hands together *and* separately

4 octaves

in root position, first *and* second inversions

Dominant sevenths ($\text{♩} = 66$)

in the keys of C, D, B, F $\sharp$, F, E $\flat$, A $\flat$, D $\flat$

legato, hands together *and* separately

4 octaves

Diminished sevenths ($\text{♩} = 66$)

beginning on any note named by the examiner

legato, hands together *and* separately

4 octaves